

W R I G H T " B " F L Y E R I N C

# WRIGHT LANDINGS



Issue 4, 2008

Dayton, Ohio

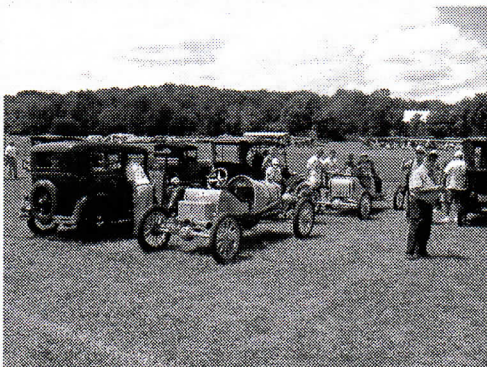
Fall 2008

## Alberta Schell

The Wright "B" Flyer family recently said farewell to a dear friend and dedicated volunteer: Alberta Schell. Alberta passed away unexpectedly July 26th. Alberta was born August 10th, 1922 in Osborne, Ohio. She was employed as an accountant at DESC until her retirement. Alberta was one of our most faithful volunteers and helped with everything from working in the gift shop to keeping the hangar clean to helping prepare our annual membership dinners (shown below). Our thoughts and prayers are with Ralph.



**Chefs Ralph and Alberta Schell prepare for our annual Membership Dinner (2006)**



**Syl inspects Model T's at Hagerstown**

## Lucky Boy Wins Free Wright "B" Flyer Ride at Fairborn Heritage Days

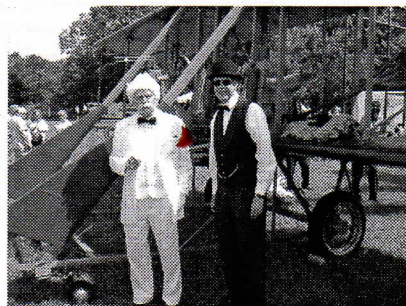


**Conner flies with Mitch!**

Connor Bushnell was the lucky winner of the Honorary Aviator Membership at the Fairborn Heritage Days. In August, Connor came to enjoy his orientation flight. Connor, who said he would like to be a pilot when he grows up, summed up his experience with a simple, "that was awesome." Wright "B" Flyer, Inc. has donated numerous Honorary Aviator Memberships this year to worthy charities and community causes.

## Wright "B" Visits Hagerstown and Model T's

On July 22nd the Wright "B" visited Hagerstown Airport, Indiana where numerous Model "T" Ford automobiles gathered. Over 900 Model "T" automobiles had been assembled at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Richmond, Indiana. Visitors from literally all over the world viewed the Wright "B" and it seemed most of them



**Rich Stepler and Mark Twain???**

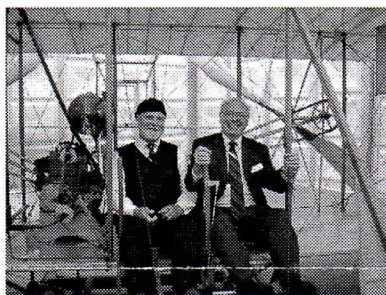
wanted to climb in the aircraft to have their photos taken. We were able to interrupt the last photo in time to start engines,, perform a fly-by for the assembled crowd, and return to Dayton the same day.



## Wright "B" Visits Farnborough

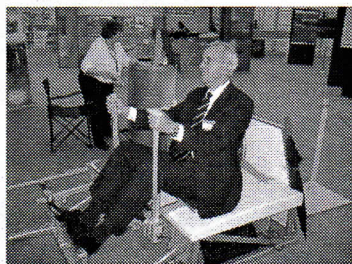
In June, Wright "B" Flyer sent a crew and our 1911 "Yellow Bird" to the Farnborough Air Show in England. The Yellow Bird was exhibited with three other historic planes in the "Pioneers of Flight Pavilion." We were on exhibition with the first three planes to fly in England. Two replicas of A.V. Roe (AVRO) planes were built by a group called the Brooklands Museum. The third plane was a replica of the Cody Flyer, the first British plane to fly in England. The Brooklands crew appeared in period costumes. The Wright "B" crew also looked good in outfits, compliments of Skeffington's Formal Wear in the Fairfield Commons Mall. Along with the plane we had a simulator so people could get an idea how hard the Wright Flyer was to fly.

We had lots of visitors during the seven days of the show. There were 120,000 people there on Saturday and 133,000 people on Sunday, the two public days of the show. One of our famous visitors was Scott Carson, President of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company and friend of Zot's.

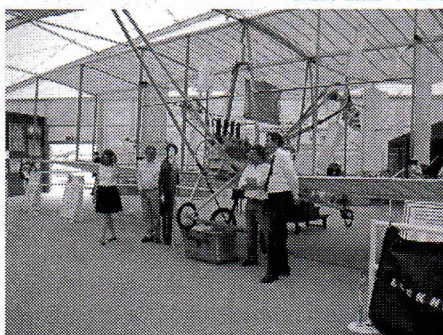


Walt and Mr. Scott Carson

Also visiting the display was Ian Whittle, son of Sir Frank Whittle who invented the first jet engine. Ian was a commercial pilot and was in commercial aviation. He did well on the simulator. We were also visited by the Indian AF helicopter demonstration team visit us repeatedly. They had a lot of fun flying the simulator.



Mr. Ian Whittle



Amanda Wright Lane with grandsons of Samuel Cody and A.V. Roe (AVRO)

## Wright "B" Flyer Hosts Daedalians & 34th TFS

September was an extremely busy month at Wright "B" Flyer. Work continued on the Silver Bird to prepare it for the trip to Orlando for the NBAA Convention. In addition, the hangar received a much-needed "cleaning" in preparation for the annual visit by the Frank Lahm Flight of Daedalians. We also hosted a reunion of the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron, "Thud" pilots and maintenance personnel who flew together at Korat during the Vietnam War. Although September 12th was a rainy day nearly a dozen members of the squadron were able to fly the Wright "B".



On September 23rd the Daedalians made their annual visit to Wright "B" for a dinner and flights in the "B." Peet Odgers flew several of the Daedalians, wives, and two UD students receiving a Daedalian scholarship who will soon be commissioned. Flight was hampered slightly that evening since "someone" had left the Master Switch in the "on" position. Thanks to our superb ground crew and a battery charger provided by Mike Maroney, we were able to start the "B."

After a Wet Afternoon!



Val Pugnale flies with Peet

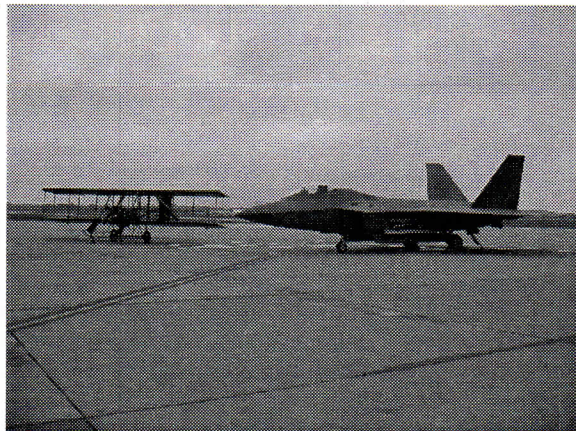


Daedalians Enjoy the Clean Hangar!!



## Fairborn Heritage Days

The Wright "B" flew to Wright Patterson AFB on June 28th to support Fairborn Heritage Days. As we taxied into the parking area the F-22 crew, ready to return to Edwards AFB after the WPAFB Tattoo the evening before, asked if both planes could be photographed together. The following photo was taken on the gray, wet day at the WPAFB flight-line.



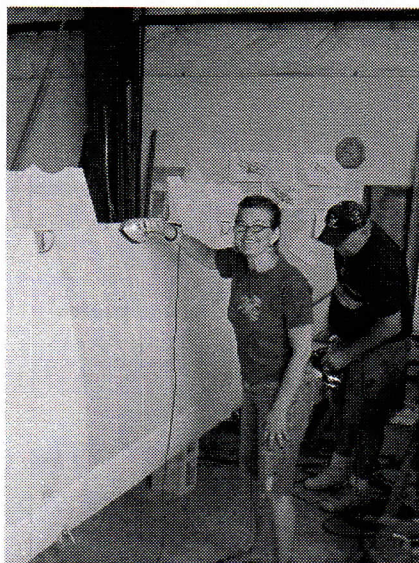
**Old Meets New**

The Wright "B" was able to fly over Heritage Days only once on Saturday and cancelled Sunday due to high winds.

## Work Continues on Silver Bird

As the summer progressed so did the Silver Bird. With the opportunity to visit France behind us the crew strived to get the plane ready for its first-ever appearance, this time at the National Business Aviation Association convention in Orlando. The crew obviously wanted the Silver Bird to "look its

best," whether complete or not. As of the night before its shipment to Orlando the crew was still working to install drive chains and propellers. The crew had put in many long hours get the center-section covered and coated with silver.



**Manda shows her skills at ironing!**

## The Summer of Broken Spokes

This has been probably the most challenging flying season in the history of the Wright "B" Flyer. One year ago, we replaced the Bendix aircraft brakes on the aircraft with Harley Davidson motorcycle brakes. The increase in stopping capability was dramatic. However, at about the same time we began to experience an increase in broken spokes. Not all of these could be attributed to BAD landings! For some unknown reason, they occurred mostly on the left wheel. We studied wheel alignment, the possibility of landing with brakes partially applied, landing in a crab (but why only on the left side), misalignment in the frame, and every other suggestion we could brainstorm. Meanwhile, Barry, Joe, Syl, Mike, Harold, and the rest of the mechanics became the BEST wheel and spoke repairmen in the world. And, Wright "B" Flyer became one of Dayton Wire Wheel's best customers.

## Mary Jane Stoutemyer

Mary Jane Stoutemyer, beloved wife of Jim Stoutemyer, passed away September 12th. Jim and Mary Jane had been married 49 years. Jim has been a Wright "B" Flyer volunteer for several years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim during this difficult period.

## Volunteers Needed

While we have made much progress with the construction of the Silver Bird we always have a need for new volunteers with a variety of skills: gift shop sales, assistance in publishing the newsletter, giving tours to visitors, *any* help with Microsoft Office use, and redecorating the hangar. Please call or stop down to the hangar and ask Mitch or Phil what needs to be done. Thanks.



**View of the Air Show!**

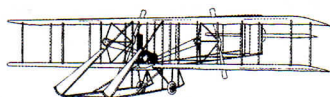
## Wright "B" Opens Vectren Dayton Air Show

The Wright "B" made its annual trip to the Dayton Air Show and for the first time opened the show, flying immediately after the sky-divers landed following the National Anthem. We did not set up or Gazebo this year due to dwindling sales the previous two years and the location of our exhibit. We did set up a "sun" tent to provide some relief. Shown here is the Dayton Airshow from a participant's perspective. On Sunday, we were asked to "pose" with the F-22. The crew towed the Wright "B" over to the F-22 and numerous photos were taken of the two aircraft together. The Air Force even conducted a swearing-in ceremony in front of the two aircraft. Weather precluded returning to Wright Brothers Airport on Sunday after the airshow, but the "B" was safely returned on Monday.



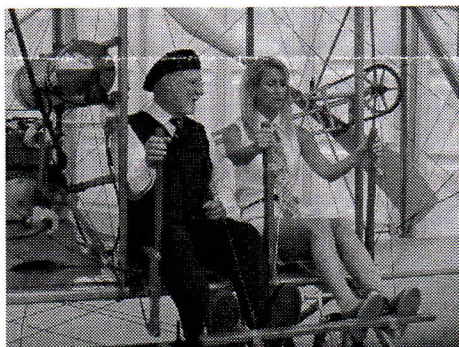
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### Wright "B" Flyer

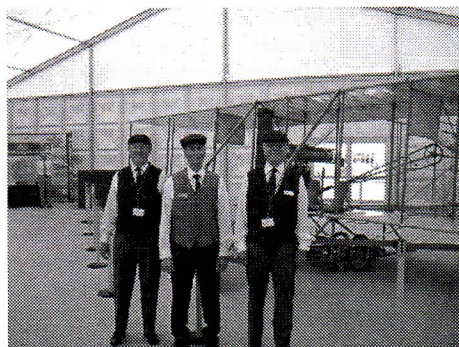


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### More Photos



Walt instructs a visiting aviator. It's tough duty, but someone had to do it!



Ned, Zot, and Bill sport their period wear from Skeffington's

### A Busy Summer

As the flying season comes to a close I want to thank all the dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to keep the "Brown Bird" flying this summer. It was a difficult summer—a record both in broken spokes and Honorary Aviator Members who received orientation flights. The Silver Bird crew worked continuously to ready the aircraft for Le Mans (first) and then Orlando. They nearly kept pace with the overly optimistic schedule. Regardless, the plane will fly next spring and be a star attraction at many future events.

During the winter months we have *MANY* projects to tackle. If you have an interest in turning our hangar into a quality museum *PLEASE* contact us. We can desperately use your talent. My hope is you literally will not recognize our hangar next spring.

Mitch

Please purchase our "Leader in Flight" license plates!



[http://bmvo.hio.gov/vehicle\\_registration/leader\\_in\\_flight.htm](http://bmvo.hio.gov/vehicle_registration/leader_in_flight.htm)